UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

SEP 14 2004

In re Application of :
Douglas P. Hand : DECISION ON PETITION
Application No. 10/679,219 :
Filed: October 2, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No. HAD 301G

This is a decision on the petition to make special filed on October 2, 2003. The petition is based upon the practice described in MPEP § 708.02(IV) "Applicant's Age." Therefore, no petition fee is required.

The petition is granted.

The petition to make special based upon the practice in the above mentioned MPEP section is deemed to satisfy all of the requirements thereof. Accordingly, the examiner will treat this application as special throughout its prosecution. Prior to the first action on the merits, the examiner will conduct a rigorous search for potentially interfering applications. The interference search will be brought up to date prior to each successive action.

The Supervisory Patent Examiner of Patent Examining Art Unit 3751 is being informed of this decision, and will advise the examiner to take future action consistent therewith. The granting of this petition is not to be taken as an endorsement of the invention that is disclosed and claimed.

PETITION GRANTED.

Stephen Marcus, Special Program Examiner,
Technology Center 3700

M. Matthews Hall
Kolisch Hartwell, P.C.
200 Pacific Building
520 S. W. Yamhill Street
Portland, OR 97204